(c) No, Sir. M/s. Sikri and Co. are not taking unnecessary adjournments in cases of scientists currently being heard CAT (PB) New Delhi on flimsy grounds to harass the employees. It is submitted that adjournments are not granted by the Hon'ble CAT on flimsy grounds.

(d) It is submitted that M/s. Sikri and Co. are not indulging in dilatory tactics hence the question of directing the said firm not to indulge in dilatory tactics, does not arise.

Central assistance to Bihar for small and marginal farmers

4400. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past a substantial amount was provided by the Central Government to the State of Bihar as Central assistance for small and marginal farmers in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has distributed only a small part of the Central assistance among the small and marginal farmers of the State and rest is lying unutilised with the State Government;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for not distributing of Central funds by the State Government; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (e) Under the Special Scheme for assistance to small and marginal farmers implemented during 1992-93, Rs. 19.24 crore was made available to Bihar. The various programmes including reclamation and development of salt affected land, supply of small tractors/power tillers, strengthening of soil and fertiliser laboratories which were sought by the State Government to be included for implementation under the special scheme for assistance to small and marginal farmers was approved by the Central Government.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance to small and marginal farmers for construction of shallow tubewells/dug wells, which was transferred to the States w.e.f. 1-4-1992 as per the decision of National Development Council, an amount of Rs. 14.68 crore was transferred to Bihar during 1992-93. Against Rs. 89.23 crores released to the State Government of Bihar from 1988-89 to 1992-93 under this scheme, the State Government has reported that an amount of Rs. 90.35 crores as Central share has been utilised during this period.

Setting up of Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium

4401. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the schemes proposed to be undertaken under the Consortium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have decided to set up a Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium (SFAC). The aims and objectives and the details of structure of the proposed SFAC are being workedout.

Decline in the field of Agricultural Research and Education

4402. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in agricultural research and agricultural education in real term in the 7th Plan;

(b) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the decline in agricultural research, both in quantitative and qualitative terms; and

(c) steps being taken to reverse this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Periodic assessment is made for both Institutes as well as All India Coordinated Research Projects by eminent Scientists through quin-quennial review teams (QRT), Work shops, Mid-term Review etc.

(c) Based on the recommendation of (b) above corrective measures are taken by the Council.

Declining trend of capital formation in Agriculture

4403. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the likely adverse effects of a dip in capital formation in agriculture over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to reverse this declining trend of capital formation in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Gross capital formation in agriculture both at current as well as 1980-81 prices has increased after 1989-90.

(c) The strategy to increase capital formation in agriculture will include increasing the proportion of planned investment for development of infrastructure, more efficient use of resources to raise productivity and ensuring remunerative prices to farmers to induce them to go for higher investments in agriculture.

Purchase of edible oil by NDDB

4404. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision not to allow the National Dairy Development Board to purchase edible oils for the purpose of matket intervention;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the other recommendations compiled by Government with regard to edible oil;

(d) whether market intervention in edible oils will be discontinued; and

(e) if so, the reasons for abandoning market intervention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Empowered Committee on Oilseeds Policy (ECOP) has recommended modified terms and conditions for Market Intervention Operations (MIO) for FY 93-94 to limit the Government liability towards losses in MIO.

(c) and (d) ECOP directed DAC/TMO&P to obtain Government approval for the same alongwith the decisions for the future course of action for MIO from FY 94-95 onwards. A note for CCEA in this regard has been prepared and after incorporating the views of different Ministries will be placed before CCEA.

(e) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Incidents of the landslides in the country

4405. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of landslide killing 100 persons and injuring several people in Darjeeling district of West Bengal have been reported on 88-93;